Member, fuel efficiency and safety measures which are required to be enhanced and improvi sed by 1993 are being taken care of.

Setting up of National Renewal Fund

*43. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :
SHRI JAGADISH JANI :

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a National Renewal Fund ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives of the Fund and the amount earmarked for it for 1990-91;

(c) the names of the Ministries and other agencies which have contributed or may contribute to this Fund ;

(d) the manner in which the Fund is proposd to be administered ;

(e) the categories of workers which are likely to be benefited by the Fund ;

(f) whether any other similar fund is also proposed to be constituted to rehabilitate the displaced workers in the decentralised sectors because of competition from their mechanised counter-parts ;

(g) whether the Central Government would provide similar funds to the States ; and

(h) if so, the details of fund to be provided to Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

£The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagadish Jani.

Statement

(a) to (h) Government have constituted a National Renewal Fund. The fund will provide assistance to meeting costs of retraining and redeployment of labour and also provide compensation to labour in the event of restructuring of any industrial unit. The Fund would help technological upgradation and modernisation in Indian industry. The fund would cover both public and private enterprises with contributions from Government of India, State Governments, Financial Institutions, General Insurance Corporation of India and Industrial units.

The Fund will be administered by the Ministry of Industry. Procedures for administering the Fund are being worked out.

श्री जगदीश जानी : सभापति महोदय, राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण कोष का मैं स्वागत करता हूं । सरकार बहुत सारे उद्योगों को मेकेनाइज़ करने जा रही है, इनमें प्रचुर तादाद में श्रमिक काम करेंगे । क्या सबको इस राष्ट्रीय नवीकरण कोष से धनराशि की सहायता मिलेगी ?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : In the process of restructuring our technological upgradation if the labour are affected, certainly the National Renewal Fund will come forward to assist them.

श्री जगदीश जानी : मैंने राज्यों के बारे में जिक्र किया था, तो क्या राज्यों में ऐसे कोष की स्थापना होगी ? अगर होगी तो कब तक और इस विषय में क्या कदम उठाया गया है ? मंत्री महोदय ने धनराशि देने के बारे में जो बताया है, उड़ीसा राज्य को कितनी धनराशि दी जायेगी ?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : It is up to the State Governments to decide whether they should like to have

such a set-up of their own, but as far as the National Renewal Fund set up by the Government of India is concerned, State Governments are free to join the National Renewal Fund. We will be writing to the State Governments inviting their cooperation.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : The reply of the hon. Minister does not give justice to the issue that has been raised. The hon. Minister in his reply has stated the purpose and objective of the Fund. As you know the papers submitted to the Tripartite Conference a few days ago and the document that we have got this morning categorically say that for restructuring of labour force arising out of the industrialisation scheme of the Government this Fund has been set up. As a result of this a big section of the labour force is to be thrown out of the public sector undertakings. This scheme which has been prepared will impose a burden of Rs. 6,000 crores on the nation for the so-called restructuring. Of course, it has not been stated there, but the Government should reply whether they have taken this measure at the instance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in order to get some loans from them. As a result of that they will destabilise the Indian industry and cause distress to the Indian work force. It will create a serious imbalance in the work force and in the production system. I would like to know whether it is true or not. If it is so, why is the Government pursuing this policy ? In pursuance of this policy why is the Government obliging the IMF by... (*Interruptions*) I am completing my question. The Government should reply as to what are the purposes behind further amending the BIFR Act.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : First of all, I would like to inform the Member that we do not take decisions at the instance of any external force. We take decisions which we feel are in the best interest of the country.

Secondly, the Member's contention is that NRF is not in the interest of the workers. His contention is not based on facts. In fact there is a need for technological modernisation of the industries. I am sure the hon. Member will agree with me that there are a number of units in the country which need technological upgradation and modernisation. In that event if there is any distress caused to the workers, it is the responsibility of the Government to protect their interests. That is why this NRF has been instituted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indian teams working in Antarctica

*44. SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA : Will be PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of teams presently working in Antarctica ;

(b) what are the details of the teams earlier sent ; and

(c) what have been their achievements and how much expenditure has been incurred on them, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) The eleventh Indian Expedition team along with the winter team members left behind by the tenth expedition team is, at present, working in Antarctica.

(b) The details of the earlier expedition teams indicating the number of scientists, logistics personnel and doctors for the summer